

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8036

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 1 OF 2 TUNIS 6105

STADIS//////////

FOR NEA BISHOP FROM CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, US, TS
SUBJ: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES IN RELATIONS WITH TUNISIA

REF: STATE 202267 AND 203833

1. ALTHOUGH I WOULD MUCH HAVE PREFERRED THAT AMBASSADOR COMMENT PERSONALLY ON GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR HIM IN COMING YEAR, NEW DEADLINE OF COB TODAY OBVIOUSLY MAKES THIS IMPOSSIBLE. HOWEVER, I BELIEVE I CAN ACCURATELY REFLECT HIS THINKING AND WOULD LIKE TO OFFER SOME THOUGHTS FROM OUR VIEWPOINT HERE. RATHER THAN COMMENT ON INDIVIDUAL ITEMS, I WOULD LIKE TO PROPOSE AN OUTLINE IN A SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT FORMAT FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION, WITH HEAVY EMPHASIS ON ACHIEVABLE OBJECTIVES OVER A TWELVE MONTH PERIOD IN AREAS WHERE IT APPEARS TO US THERE ARE SPECIFIC NEEDS TO ACHIEVE SPECIFIC GOALS. AS SUGGESTED IN OVERALL GUIDANCE, GENERAL OBJECTIVES WHICH REMAIN CONSTANT WILL BE UNDERLYING ASSUMPTION TO SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES. LAST PARAGRAPH OF THIS MESSAGE CONTAINS SOME FOOTNOTES, FOR BAKCGROUND PURPOSES, ON OUR RATIONALE FOR CERTAIN PROPOSED WORDING.

2. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR US AMBASSADOR TO TUNISIA:

A. PRIORITY OBJECTIVES FOR COMING YEAR:

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IN THE COMING YEAR OUR PRIMARY OBJECTIVE IN TUNISIA WILL BE TO PROMOTE CONTINUED WESTERN ORIENTATION OF THE COUNTRY UNDER THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT THROUGH DEMONSTRATED POLITICAL SUPPORT AND LEVELS OF MILITARY AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FROM THE US AND OTHER WESTERN NATIONS SUFFICIENT TO MAINTAIN INTERNAL STABILITY.

B. POLITICAL OBJECTIVES:

1. DEMONSTRATE OUR SUPPORT FOR THE PRESENT LEADERSHIP AND FOR CONSTITUTIONAL SUCCESSION BY INVITING PRIME MINISTER NOUIRA TO WASHINGTON TO MEET WITH THE PRESIDENT.
2. DEMONSTRATE THROUGH VISITS TO US AND OTHER MEANS OUR STRONG TIES WITH ALL OF THE PRINCIPAL LEADERS OF THE GOVERNING POLITICAL PARTY.
3. ENCOURAGE THE TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT TO ACCEPT THE LEGITIMACY OF THOSE INTERNAL POLITICAL FORCES THAT ARE CLEARLY WILLING TO WORK THROUGH ESTABLISHED INSTITUTIONS.
4. ACKNOWLEDGE TO THE TUNISIAN LEADERSHIP THE COUNTRY'S GENERALLY POSITIVE RECORD IN THE AREAS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND RESPECT FOR DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND SEEK TO DEVELOP A BETTER UNDERSTANDING WITHIN THE TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT THAT OUR HUMAN RIGHTS GOALS DO NOT REPRESENT AN ATTEMPTED INFRINGEMENT OF SOVEREIGNTY BUT RATHER AN EFFORT TO DEVELOP MUTUAL SUPPORT FOR AGREED STANDARDS OF HUMAN RIGHTS BEHAVIOR WITHIN THE HISTORICAL CONTEXTS OF OUR INDIVIDUAL POLITICAL SYSTEMS. ON THIS BASIS, EXPRESS APPROPRIATE CONCERN AT HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, WHERE WE CAN REASONABLY DEMONSTRATE THAT THEY EXIST.

C. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:

1. MAINTAIN FMS CREDITS AT AN ANNUAL LEVEL OF AT LEAST \$25, MILLION, TO AID IN THE ACQUISITION OF MORE MODERN DEFENSE

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EQUIPMENT; AND GIVE HIGH PRIORITY TO MAINTAINING A FRANK AND CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE AIMED AT HELPING TUNISIA TO MAKE RATIONAL CHOICES IN ITS DEFENSE MODERNIZATION PROGRAM.

2. ENCOURAGE AND STRENGTHEN SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN TUNISIA AND THE PRINCIPAL WESTERN EUROPEAN NATIONS, WITH THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF A CONSENSUS WITH SUCH COUNTRIES AS FRANCE, ITALY, WEST GERMANY AND THE UK ON MEETING TUNISIAN DEFENSE NEEDS.

3. MAINTAIN AND, WHERE ADVISABLE, INCREASE THE USE OF TUNISIAN FACILITIES BY THE US SIXTH FLEET, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON NUCLEAR POWERED WARSHIPS, AND EXTEND AREAS OF COOPERATION THROUGH JOINT EXERCISES AND, WHEN APPROPRIATE, CIVIL RELIEF OPERATIONS. CONCURRENTLY, DEVELOP AN ACTION PLAN FOR THWARTING SOVIET EFFORTS TO SUBSTITUTE TUNISIAN FACILITIES FOR OTHERS THEY HAVE LOST IN THE MEDITERRANEAN.

4. ENCOURAGE TUNISIA TO MAINTAIN THE BEST RELATIONS POSSIBLE WITH ALL NORTH AFRICAN COUNTRIES, INCLUDING LIBYA, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME ENCOURAGING TUNISIA TO CONTINUE A VISIBLE DEFENSE COMMITMENT THAT WILL MAKE CONCILIATION RATHER THAN CONFRONTATION MORE ATTRACTIVE TO LIBYA. ENCOURAGE TUNISIA TO ACT AS A MODERATE

FORCE IN THE THIRD WORLD, WHILE ACCEPTING THAT TUNISIA'S CREDENTIALS AS AN ARAB STATE ARE A PREREQUISITE TO EXERCISING THIS INFLUENCE.

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FOR NEA BISHOP FROM CHARGE

D. ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENTAL OBJECTIVES:

1. REAFFIRM OUR COMMITMENT TO DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE END OF THE FIFTH PLAN. THE COMING YEAR MUST BE ONE OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION, IF WE ARE TO DEMONSTRATE THIS COMMITMENT. DURING THE COMING YEAR WE SHOULD ALSO REACH A FINAL UNDERSTANDING WITH THE TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT ON A VERY LIMITED NUMBER OF MUTUALLY AGREED AREAS WHERE WE WILL DEVOTE ALMOST THE ENTIRETY OF OUR AID RESOURCES TO ASSISTING THE RURAL POOR. CONTINUE TO REDIRECT PEACE CORPS EFFORTS TOWARD THE SAME TARGET AREAS AND ENCOURAGE GREATER INTEGRATION OF AID AND PC EFFORTS.

3. MAINTAIN THE CURRENT LEVEL OF OUR CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM AND GIVE GREATER EMPHASIS TO GRANTEES WITH POTENTIAL FOR ASSUMING POSITIONS OF AUTHORITY IN THE AREA OF ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENTAL POLICY.

4. ENCOURAGE US TRADE AND INVESTMENT THAT APPEARS BEST LIKELY TO COMPETE WITH EUROPEAN COMPETITION, AND PARTICULARLY IN THOSE AREAS WHERE WE CAN BEST DEMONSTRATE OUR ABILITY TO ASSIST TUNISIAN DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS. IN THIS CONTEXT, ENCOURAGE TUNISIA TO LIFT TRADE BARRIERS AFFECTING THE US. SEEK OPPORTUNITIES TO ASSIST TUNISIA IN DIVERSIFYING ITS EXPORT MARKETS IN THE FACE OF GROWING EUROPEAN PROTECTIONISM.

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3. AS A FOOTNOTE I WOULD LIKE TO ADD SOME RATIONALE ON SEVERAL POINTS WHERE I DO PROPOSE SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT LANGUAGE THAN THAT CONTAINED IN YOUR TELEGRAM

A. AT THIS POINT WE DO NOT SEE THE LIKELIHOOD OF A "POWER STRUGGLE" FOLLOWING BOURGUIBA SO MUCH AS CONTINUING EFFORTS BY SEVERAL PARTY LEADERS TO ACHIEVE THE MAXIMUM POSITION POSSIBLE BY THE TIME THAT MOMENT COMES. UNTIL THAT TIME BOURGUIBA WILL DECIDE AND FOR THE PRESENT HE SEEMS TO HAVE RECONFIRMED NOUIRA.

B. WHILE NOT ATTEMPTING TO DOWNPLAY HUMAN RIGHTS, I BELIEVE THAT TUNISIA'S RECORD IS SUCH AND OUR OBJECTIVES ARE SUCH THAT WE CAN ACHIEVE A LARGE AREA OF COMMON PURPOSE.

C. I HAVE SPECIFICALLY INCLUDED OUR CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE LEVEL OF THE PROGRAM IS HIGH, BUT IT IS THE CORE OF OUR CULTURAL PROGRAM, UNLIKE IN SOME COUNTRIES WITH GREATER RESOURCES IN OTHER AREAS. WE ARE POUCHING A PAPER THAT DOCUMENTS THE PUBLIC COMMITMENT OF THE USG TO MAINTAINING THIS PROGRAM AT ITS PRESENT LEVEL, A COMMITMENT THAT HAS BEEN RE-AFFIRMED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS.

D. IN THE MILITARY FIELD I AM CONVINCED THAT CONTINUED DIALOGUE CAN PRODUCE AGREED OBJECTIVES. THE DECISION TO CONSIDER SERIOUSLY THE F-5 APPEARS TO BE A POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT IN THIS DIRECTION.

E. WE ARE FULLY AWARE OF THE POTENTIAL SERIOUSNESS OF THE SOVIETS DEVELOPING MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR FACILITIES HERE. I THINK, HOWEVER, THAT BEFORE COMMITTING OURSELVES TO A POSITION ON WHAT EFFECT THIS WILL HAVE ON REALTIONS WITH THE US, WE NEED TO FULLY STAFF OUT THE IMPORTANCE OF THESE FACILITIES AND WEIGH THE IMPORTANT ADVANTAGES TO US OF TUNISIA'S FOUR PORTS ON THE SOUTHERN

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RIM OF THE MEDITERRANEAN. WE ALSO HAVE THE QUESTION OF NPW ACCESS, AND IT IS CLEAR FROM RECENT TRAFFIC THAT IN THIS AREA TUNISIA IS OUTSTANDINGLY FORTHCOMING. I THINK WE SHOULD CONSIDER A WHOLE RANGE OF ACTIONS WE MIGHT TAKE TO INFLUENCE THE REPAIR FACILITY QUESTION BEFORE WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO A POLICY POSITION.

4. I HOPE THAT THESE NECESSARILY HASTY THOUGHTS WILL BE OF SOME HELP TO YOU, AND I APOLOGIZE FOR FURTHER COMPLICATING YOUR TASK IN THE FEW HOURS THAT YOU HAVE LEFT TO SUBMIT THIS PAPER. DO NOT LOOK ON MY ARRANGEMENT AS A COUNTERPROPOSAL BUT AS THOUGHTS FROM TUNIS ARRANGED FROM OUR VIEWPOINT. PLEASE

USE THEM AS YOU WILL.
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